Personality and Involvement in Gangs:

Membership, Embeddedness, Centrality and Ties



BACKGROUND: Previous research on the link between gang involvement and psychopathy failed to use the Triarchic Psychopathy Measure (TriPM) and Boldness Inventory in the assessment of psychopathy and failed to include membership qualities in the assessment of gang membership (Carson & Ray, 2019). We hypothesize that (1) individuals with higher Boldness levels will experience higher levels of gang membership, (2) individuals with optimal leadership abilities and criminality linked abilities will experience higher levels of relevant membership qualities, and (3) individuals with higher social abilities and required gang abilities will experience higher levels of relevant membership qualities.

METHODS

- et al., 2019), Triarchic Psychopathy Measure
 (Patrick et al., 2009), Boldness Inventory (Patrick
 et al., 2019), Gang Membership Measure and
 Duration of involvement Measure-Revised
 (Decker et al., 2014), Gang Embeddedness
 Measure (Pyrooz et al., 2014), Gang Centrality
 Measure-Revised (Leverso & Matsueda, 2019),
 Gang Ties Measure (Pyrooz et al., 2013), and Gang
 Organization Measure (Decker et al., 2008) to
 collect data from community members on Amazon
 Mechanical Turk (MTurk) ages 19 and up, living the
 US or Canada, who have a history of serious crime.
- 2. A logistics regression analysis will be used for hypothesis 1, while both linear and curvilinear regression analyses will be used for hypothesis 2 and 3.

ANTICIPATED FINDINGS

 We anticipate that gang membership will positively correlate with Boldness. Leadership abilities and criminality linked abilities will show a curvilinear association to their respective membership qualities while social abilities and required gang abilities will show a positive linear association.

DISCUSSION

 By highlighting the importance of personality in gang membership, our results may help police with gang prevention and intervention strategies. We anticipate that (1) gang members will experience greater levels of Boldness than non-members and (2) different trait cluster levels will demonstrate greater relevant membership qualities

Trait Cluster	TriPM Domain	Traits	Hypothesized Regression Associations	Membership Qualities
Leadership Abilities	Boldness	Persuasiveness Dominance	Curvilinear	Embeddedness Centrality Leadership Roles
Criminality Linked Abilities	Disinhibition Meanness	Impulsivity Lack of Empathy	Curvilinear	Embeddedness Centrality
Social Abilities	Boldness	Self-Confidence Social Assurance	Positive	Embeddedness Centrality Leadership Roles Social Ties
Required Gang Abilities	Boldness Meanness	Valor Intrepidness Resilience Aggression	Positive	Embeddedness Centrality Emotional Ties (Patrick et al., 2009; Patrick et al., 2019)

Tri-PM

Boldness represents the charismatic mask of a psychopath (Patrick et al., 2009).

Meanness represents the callous nature of a psychopath.

Disinhibition represents the impulsive, planless nature of a psychopath (Patrick et al., 2009).

Membership Qualities

Embeddedness relates to how immersed a member is within their gang (Pyrooz et al., 2013).

Centrality relates to how central a member is within their gang (Leverso & Matsueda, 2019).

Ties relates to the member's degree of social involvement in their gang and emotional attachment to their gang (Pyrooz et al., 2014).

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Acknowledgements

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